

*To Mr. W.D. [unclear]  
[unclear] 18/7*

*Copy.*

*By hand.*

CONFIDENTIAL

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To Mr. L. Bruce LAINGEN  
United States Vice Consul  
Consulate of the United States at Wentorf.  
21 June 1951

Dear Sir,

I have been informed that you have returned my application for immigration into the U.S.A. to the U.S. DP Commission for reconsideration by the I.R.O.

I am sure this your decision is based upon a misunderstanding and insufficient information, especially as it was made without having interviewed me.

Liking to prevent this misunderstanding to grow deeper, and being convinced that you, when duly informed, will agree with the decision taken on this matter by the DP Commission, whose highly experienced officials had passed my case to the Consulate after a thorough investigation of it during a long period of 19 months ( October 1949 - May 1951 ), - I dare ask you to revise this your decision and to give me a possibility for a personal interview with you, or with the Consul who will have to decide upon my case, so I could give complementary confidential information, which I never can and will give to an international body like the I.R.O.

I would like to add here that the information which I gave to the German typist in the Consulate on 16 May, was not given with the intention to mislead the Consulate: I thought the Consul being duly informed upon my case by the DP Commission. I was told in DP Commission that my case will be dealt and passed to the Consulate in confidential way, and that I will not have to give confidential information to any German employee of the Consulate. When, nevertheless, I was called before a German typist and was asked about my war-time whereabouts and activity, then, to secure my real story before unauthorized German employee, I chose the stereotyped expressions of "underground movement" and "Estonian Legion", which, generally taken are true too, although I have never served in this Legion ( I was mobilized in 1944 ~~thru~~ through an Estonian Conscription Depot of the Estonian Waffen SS ), and my "underground movement" was not communist-led, as these usually were in Western Europe, but it was anti-communist and anti-nazi simultaneously. But I don't stick on these expressions which may cause misunderstandings later on, too, and these may be altered ~~and~~ deemed necessary.

The data which I have given to the I.R.O. are formally right, although not so detailed as I have given to the Investigators of the U.S. DP Commission in confidential way, and which I am ready to give in a similar way to the U.S. Consulate too, when asked to do so.

My leaving Estonia on flight in 1940 was strictly confidential, and illegal in the eyes of the Russian-led puppet-government on rule in Estonia then. I and my family have not been registered leaving Estonia in any police station in Estonia in

1940, and as to the official reports, we were all this time living somewhere in Estonia, being wanted by the communist authorities.

I find such "formally right" reporting to an international body like UNRRA and IRO to be just the right way. It would be a crime against the many honest people in Estonia, Finland and East-Germany who helped me and my family on our flight and during our hiding, against these persons who are still under the communist control, would I reveal them to the communists by opening my real story to the UNRRA or to its successor IRO.

It is true that I have worked against the enemies of my free Estonian Country. But this was not a new activity of mine, started against a Member of the U.N. or an Ally of the Western Democratic Powers. This was a mere continuation of my peaceful work of peace time, when I too, was working in my quality of an officer of Gen. Staff against the enemies of our free State. I was, and I am still, o b l i g e d as a soldier of the independent Republic of Estonia to continue this work until our Country will be freed from the enemies. This obligation I have taken upon me when entering the military service in free Estonia in 1923, and I have never been freed from the oath of allegiance I gave to our State then. It was not a Member of the U.N. and not an Ally of the Western States who tried to force me as a spy into the Russian Secret Service in June 1940, and before I had to flee. It was an enemy of the free Estonia and a good associate of the Nazi-Germany then. Against this enemy of Estonia, the communist regime, I went on working for the benefit of my country, using any help I could receive as an Estonian refugee-officer abroad. Such my activity is considered not to constitute "voluntary assistance" of the enemy forces ( according Remark 1 to para 2 b of Part II of the Statute of I.R.O.).

Thus I found that I am with full right the concern of the IRO.

The British Authorities to whom I reported all details of my activity in May 1945, arrested me in their first exaggeration. But after a thorough investigation they understood the righteousness of my activity, they found this have been the very duty of an Estonian officer. They found me to be a rightful refugee and they helped me to enter a refugee camp (DP camp). They, too, agreed with me that I can not tell my real story to the UNRRA, and they advised me to use nothing-saying expressions like "underground movement".

One of the officers of the DP Commission, ~~wanted~~ to give my strictly confidential report to the IRO in Oct 1949, when I opened my full story to the DP Commission. This decision, too, was reversed after thorough investigation of the problem on higher level. After this investigation the DP Commission, responsible for the determination of the applicant's eligibility under the DP Act (according to the Regulations of the DPC, art. 7C2.10), decided not to return my case to the IRO but forward this as an eligible case to the Consulate under confidential cover, so ~~that~~ my confidential information being duly protected.

In both these cases there was no special relations between me and the investigators which could influence these decisions. Thus these decisions were due to the thorough investigation, righteous study of the matter and the wisdom of the investigating officers only.

KURGVEL-LAINGEN, 21 June 1951

I am sure that after having read this writing and the attached exposition concerning the immigration of the Baltic Soldiers, and thus my case too, you, in your quality of Consul of the United States will not more feel yourself obliged to insist on returning of my case to the IRO. Such a step would in no way lie in interests of the States. This step would break my faith into the wisdom and righteousness of the qualified American officials, and would enlarge the number of the many honest soldiers and their family members, who, because of the tendentious regulations of the IRO are still exempt of the possibility of immigration into the States under the provisions of the D.P. Act, being found "ineligible for IRO care", "not concern of the IRO", while they have followed their honest duty of a soldier!

I think that you may rely upon the decision of the DP Commission of the beginning of May, and I ask <sup>you</sup> to return my case from the DPC, and let me and my family immigrate into the U.S.A. before the D.P. Act will expire.

We have waited very long time already. Our elder son will have to enter the American Army soon (immigrated in 1950). When we will have to wait for your final decision for long time, then this will mean for us the loss of the last faint hope and possibility to emigrate into another country in case that you really will reject us. Therefore I sincerely ask you for a prompt solution of my case.

Yours very truly

A. K. L.

NB: As the problems treated in the attached exposition seemed to get solved positively in general, this exposition has not yet been given the intended publicity.

AR.

RECEIVED  
JUN 22 1951